

Ownership - Survey Gap Analysis

Ownership - Survey Gap Number 1: Survey Services Assistance

“As-Is”	“To-Be”	Initial Implementation Points (Final Gaps by February 28, 2004)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no known policies and procedures available to advise tribes and BIA in which situations surveys are needed and whether or not a non-BLM or official cadastral survey is required. This, combined with the perception that BLM lacks adequate resources to provide survey services, leads some BIA Field Offices to not request a service on behalf of beneficiaries from BLM, or to request the wrong type of survey service; to put the survey need on hold and advise the requestor it cannot be fulfilled. There is no up-front surveyor assistance to help sort through issues and determine if or what kind of survey service is needed. A very significant backlog of unmet survey needs exists throughout Indian country in the lower 48 states. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey activities are standardized and consolidated across DOI to take advantage of existing personnel and resources, eliminating duplicate processes, systems, management and offices. Cadastral surveyors are strategically placed at appropriate geographical locations to assist in trust survey needs/prioritization and requests. Guidance and policies associated with survey issues to individuals, tribes and other governmental agencies are provided. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leverage existing survey services. Locate a cadastral surveyor at appropriate geographical locations for survey needs accountability.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ability to identify and validate needs as well as provide a research source for survey projects is hampered 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is one Department land status record system of all federal and trust parcel information including status, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement one standard land status record system based on cadastral data which provides the legal land

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<p>by the lack of an automated system that provides access to ownership and survey records.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing survey records are not filed in survey files at agency offices making it difficult to locate previously completed survey results. Historical survey records are paper-based records making them accessible only to people in the office where they are located. Each office performing surveys has their own unique tracking system. 	<p>legal description, area, survey data and geographic location based on a GCDB platform. The system provides inquiry status and imaged document retrieval.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a standard automated survey service inquiry form available. 	<p>description, and imaged documents of historical as well as current survey data.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish survey files at field offices and image them into the land status record system.

Ownership - Survey Gap Number 2: Accreditation Program

“As-Is”	“To-Be”	Initial Implementation Points (Final Gaps by February 28, 2004)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trust lands are being surveyed through contract with private surveyors or in-house staff who may not be qualified or properly guided to correctly perform the work. Private surveys are not typically reviewed by BLM or kept for historical purposes. BLM will not have the ability to address all the survey needs identified in Indian country due to retirement and recruitment issues. Therefore, even more outsourcing to either tribes or the private sector will be warranted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An accredited licensed federal surveyors program federally authorizes non-federal surveyors to perform surveys under the direction and control of DOI. The program provides training, administers an exam which must be passed, and a license is given as a “licensed federal surveyor”. The name of the private surveyor is added to a list for use by offices needing to contract survey services with oversight provided by DOI. Policies and procedures for contracting survey services as well as policies and guidelines for requestors to follow when contracting commercial activities are developed by DOI. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement a program to license private land surveyors as licensed federal surveyors and provide a list of them as commercial activity surveyors to tribes and Bureau offices. Tribal and agency surveyors are encouraged to become accredited surveyors.

Ownership - Survey Gap Number 3: Funding for Surveys and Maintenance of the Public Land Survey System (PLSS)

“As-Is”	“To-Be”	Initial Implementation Points (Final Gaps by February 28, 2004)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Historically, the funding process between BIA and BLM for survey services is slow, and not equitable or appropriately reflecting priorities. This has caused delays in trust-to-fee transactions (disposals), timber sales, mineral permitting, resolution of trespass cases, identification of housing sites and awarding of mortgages, and business development plans of tribes. Delays in some areas were reported to be several years. (Progress is currently being made through the CARS project.) As a requirement for land title, land transaction, and management decision-making processes, the Public Land Survey System (PLSS) on Indian lands is not maintained at a comparable level as provided for federal and private lands. As a result, costs to restore lost boundary evidence is significantly more than if the original boundary can be recovered and perpetuated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A redesigned budgeting/funding process for OFSS as well as survey needs is in place. Options include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% funding to be divided between Bureaus per their estimates 100% reimbursable funding by Bureaus 50% reimbursable funding by Bureaus and 50% budget for maintenance Stewardship of the PLSS on federal interest and trust lands is included in the functions of OFSS. All surveys are completed and maintained in a timely manner. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Redesign the funding process for survey services. Develop funding and establish the schedule for maintenance of the PLSS.